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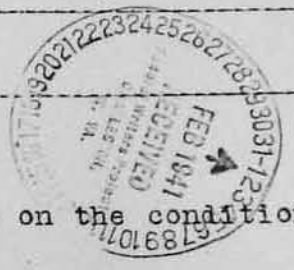

These are mostly the pastors reports on the condition of the church.

Juanita Dilley

Greenbank circuit

Greenbank circuit at the present consists of the following churches:

Greenbank

Dunmore

Cass

McLaughlin

Wesley Chapel

Travelers Repose is now known as Arbogast Memorial at Bartow.
Upper Tract referred to in the early part of this report is also the same place.
Back Alleghaney was later called McLaughlin Church.
Glade Hill is now called Wesley Chapel.
You will notice that in the very beginning Mt Zion is on this circuit, but was changed to Dilley School house and soon transferred to Huntersville circuit. This was about the time the Southern and Northern branch split at Mt. Zion and the Southern members withdrew to the School house for a time but soon built Bethel Church near Dilleys Mill.
Mt. Vernon was later transferred to the Huntersville circuit, and Bartow is now an appointment on the Arbovale circuit, as is Wanless.

People tell me the pastor rode horse back from one appointment to the next, and that he carried his lunch in his pocket and ate it as he rode along. He also carried horse feed, and let the horse eat while he preached. He would stay overnight with some good brother and ride home the next day.

Juanita S. Dilley
Pocahontas County
Chapter 6, Religion
January 30, 1941

THE GREENBANK CIRCUIT M. E. South

Quarterly Conference held at Mt. Vernon June 24, 1871

A committee consisting of John H. Patterson, Wm. H. Hull, Moses Moore, Isaac Moore and David McGlaughlin were appointed to procure a house for the pastor of the circuit. (Note-the older McLaughlins all spelled their name with a G.)

1872

A letter on the general state of the church;

Dear Brethern,

I am almost at a loss in attempting to make a correct report on the condition of the churches on this circuit. I entered upon t the duties as your pastor the first Sunday in June and found very near the whole circuit out of fix, but one class in regular workin trim, and one other class book lying on the shelf, while the class at Greenbank was only kept on a slip of paper. While all the other classes were kept without record or care. Since I have been here I have succeeded in getting all of the societies together save one, that is Glade Hill, and a part of the society at Greenbank still are not enrolled. I hope under the blessings of God and t e aid of the brethern soon to have a thorough organization, and the whole circuit in working trim. I am happy to say I see nothing to discourage, but every thing to encourage. True We lack convenient and comfortable preaching places at two or three places, but hope to be able to remedy this at no very distant period. We would also recommend speedy and decided action to be taken toward securing a parsonage, as the circuit unfortunately let the old one slip out of their hands. If the old debt had been paid, with the addition of a small amount, the old

parsonage could have been made quite comfortable. while in this you failed decided action must be had in view of procuring another. I have been at all of the appointments and have had one Sacramental meeting, and propose having sacramental meetings at all of the appointments as soon as I can. Have had several church meetings which were encouraging. Have had three accessions as follows Andrew Ratliff, Margaret Clark and Annie Clark by certificate, and one removal by certificate Elizabeth Lightner. So far as the financial matters are concerned they are quite encouraging, and if the Stewards will continue to do their duty and work up tp time, the finances will come out square in the end. Now then, let us start together in the upbuilding of Christs Kingdom on this circuit. At the church meetings Missionary collectors were appointed for Greenbank and Mt Vernon, who were doing pretty well up to last accounts, also collectors for the Superintendants fund, we have no report from them. Brethern pray for us. Submitted in love

June 20, 1872 Joseph Crickenberger, P. C.

The board of Stewards proceeded to lay a levy for the support of the ministry- the whole amount being $525.00 apportioned as follows:

Greenbank --	$275.00
Mt. Vernon--	115.00
Mt. Zion-----	35.00
Glade Mill----	40.00
Back Alleghany	35.00
Upper Tract----	25.00

On motion it was resolved that the Stewards and class leaders at the diferent appointments, associated with such other

members of the church as they may choose to call into conference with them apportion the amount by assesment against the several members and friends if t e charge. On motion it was resolved that the pastor be requested to raise $5. by private contribution for the purpose of purchasing a church record. On motion brothers Isaac Moore, J. H. Rider and William H. Hull were elected a committee to either buy or build a parsonage for the Greenbank circuit.

July 5, 1873

Dear Brethern,

I am happy to report considerable advance in the Sabbath schools. Last year we had only three schools with about 150 scholars, at present there are six schools with 250 enrolled, and average attendance of 215. I am glad our people are becoming alive on this subject.

I am happy to report what I believe to be the condition of the churches at this time. With one exception I believe the circuit is advancing spiritually. The congregations are good, and there is marked improvment in several respects, running in and out, whispering and laughing during services are almost despensed with. The week day appointment at Upper Tract is improving, while Back Alleghaney is rather in the back ground.

Affectionately submitted,

Joseph Crickenberger, P. C.

On motion it was resolved that the parsonage committee be instructed if they find it necessary-to take the legal steps to sell the vacant lot at Greenbank belonging to the church, for the purpose of making available the proceeds thereof in the purchasing of, or the building of a parsonage.

(Note-this lot was the one on which had stood New Salem church.)

1874

Dear Brethern, There are six Sabbath schools on the circuit with sufficient officers to conduct them, about 30 teachers and 220 scholars. The school at Greenbank is an honor to the church, numbering 100 scholars. The school at Mt. Vernon as well as the one at the school house just below on the creek, although not large, are doing a good work for the church, The school at Dilleys School house is not what it should be, but the fault is not with the officers, but for want of appreciation on the part of the people of the community. At Glade Hill the same might be said. The sixth school at the Upper Tract, and the only place where our uniform lessons and Sabbath school papers have been introduced. Submitted, Leslie H. Davis, P. C.

He also reports the baptism of 41 children during the quarter. Class meetings at some points are kept up regularly, but we have formed the sad conclusion that family alters have fallen or have never been erected. Brethern let us pray that the Lord may inspire a more zealous interest in private and family prayer.

1875

The building committee of the parsonage reported whereupon it was resolved to inform the contractors that unless the building be immediately completed the contract would be relet.

The Sabbath schools were all suspended for the winter and have not been reorganized as yet.

April 10, 1875 H. M. Strickler, P. C.

In December he reported 49 new members added to the churches.

1876

Dear Brethern,

We the trustees of the Greenbank church beg leave to report

that although the church has been claimed by two parties viz M. S. Church a nd M. E. church, South because of the manner in which it was originally deeded, yet we believe in all fairness it belongs to the church which we represent, 1st because of the design had in view in its erection, which was for the benefit of the community that built it, 2nd but more especially in view of the recent action of the commissioners appointed by both churches for the adjustments of difficulties relating to church property. We also report that the church needs repainting very much and other repairs which we hope to see done at no distant day.

Nov. 25, 1876

S. G. Sutton)
W. J. Wooddell) Trustees
Isaac Moore)
G. W. Diple)

Note- This difficultye over the church property was settled by the members of the M. E. Church, South buying out the M. E. members.)

Official List of the officers for the year 1872-73

Stewards

Isaac Moore, J. P. Moomau, William H. Hull, J. H. Patterson, Moses Moore, Preston Harper, J. H. Rider, J. F. Patterson and David McLaughlin.

Class Leaders

Samuel G. Sutton, J. Harvey Curry, Moses Moore, Clayton Dilley, Sunday school Supts. washington Moore, J. H. Patterson and Charles C. Burner.

1885

There are four Sunday school on the circuit in a prosperous condit ion. It is amatter of regret however that there are quite a number of children belonging to Methodist families that do not attend

the Sunday schools, whilst there is also found a want of interest in this work upon the part of the adult members that is calculated to make very much against the prosperity and success of the schools Some of these also leave the schools of their own church and attend that of another denomination. We present this fact not because of any hostility which we feel towards other denominations but to record our disapprovel of a course taken by members of our own denomination which has a decided tendancy to undermind and destroy our own interests. We are happy to find that the literature of our own particular denomination is exclusivly used in all of the Sunday Schools on the circuit.

The number of members regrestered upon the books at this time is 235. Notwithstanding there is good attendance at all the appointments, quite a number of the members are irregular if not altogether neglectful of this important duty, and many of those who attend the preaching of the word are habitually absent from prayer meeting. During the past quarter brother James Wooddell the oldest member on the circuit has died, and Bessie Patterson has been received by certificate.

July 10, 1885 J. Kyle Gilbert, P. C.

(This Bessie Patterson is the Mrs J. Ed Taylor mentioned so often in the Dunmore church.)

Records show that for the period 1884 to 1888 there was only Greenbank, Mt. Vernon, Upper Tract now referred to as Travelers Repose and Glade Mill on the circuit. Back Alleghaney and Dilley School House later called Bethel seem to have been dropped. In 1886 a Sunday school was organized at Dunmore with C. Rice Moore as the Supt.

To the Quarterly Conference of the Greenbank circuit [illegible] I hereby resign the office of supt. of the Greenbank

Sunday school. I do not intend to abate any of my former interest in the sucess of the Sunday school, but am of the opinion that a change might be best.

May 7, 1887 Wm. H. Hull

1887

There are at present 273 members on the circuit, a large proportion of whom are young people and children and a greater number of the members are females.

Official roll for 1892-93

Rev. G. R. Neese, Pastor in Charge. John A. Taylor, S. P. Stewards- J. R. Warwick, C. C. Burner, A. M. V. Arbogast, A. M. Oliver, J. C. Arbogast, W. W. Arbogast, J. P. Wooddell, Harry M. Moore, William Cackley, J. B. Moore, Wilson Rider, T. S. Patterson, C. M. Gum, C. P. Collins, Jacob Cassell, Jr., John F. Wooddell.

Sunday School Supts.

J. F. Patterson, W. J. Yeager, A. S. Gillispie, Wm. H. Hull, B. A. Turner, P. H. Warwick, Robert Sutton, Ernest N. Moore, C. P. Collins, Henry Rider, Asbury Sheets.

The circuit now consists of the following appointments; Greenbank, Dunmore, Mt. Vernon, Travelers Repose, Glade Hill, Hoover school house, Wanless School house, McLaughlin Church,

Our people I think, are anxious to see the work advancing along all lines of church interest. It has never been my happy lot to be thrown among a better or more religious class of people than there is on the Greenbank circuit.

Respectfully submitted,

G. R. Neese, P. C.

After a lengthy review of the needs of the work the Conference decided to employ a Junior Preacher and requested the Presiding Elder to secure a young man as soon as possible and to send on.

J. A. Taylor, Sec.

1892-93

The Board of Stewards apportioned the salary among the appointments as follows; Greenbank$235,00, Dunmore $150. Travelers Repose $110. Mount Vernon $85. Glade Hill $65. McLaughlin Church $35. Wanless S. H. $35. Stony Bottom $10. The Hoover S. H. is taken into consideration with Travelers Repose.

Our schools are all suspended for the winter except Greenbank and Dunmore which are keeping up about as usual.

G. R. Neese P. C.

(Note- this is the first mention made of schools in the winter, though the record for 1888 to 1892 are not available, so there may have been winter ~~xxxxx~~ Sunday schools a little earlier than this, but there had been none in 1888.)

Renewal of license to exhort were granted John A. Taylor, and John R. Warwick.

1893

Our people need a little more church pride and we hope by our next meeting to be able to report an improvment in church property. C. L. Potter, P. C.

1894

Building committee for a new church near Indian Grave Asbury Sheets, James F. Patterson, W. W. Galford. W. B. Hudson and H. L. Taylor.

Note- this was calles Wesley Chapel.

There seems to be a spirit of church pride developing among our people. Efforts are being made to improve our church property all over the work. July 1894 C. L. Potter, P. C.

Childrens Day services were held at Dunmore and Greenbank and proved to be an enjoyable occasion. The children manifested quite an interest in them and acquitted themselves remarkably well. We believe these services will prove a blessing to the S Sunday school work.

We have organized an appointment at Driftwood(Stony Bottom) with the following members, J. N. Barnett, Sue Meeks, Martha Barnett, Dianna Barnett, Hanna Barnett, Rhoda Barnett, Stephen Barnett, Sabina Barnett, Anna Barnett, Andrew Moore, Emma Turner, Wm. W. Sharp, E. C. Sharp and Ada Turner

Note-Farther on in the records it shows that Stony Bottom was a union school, but at one time the Methodists made plans to build a church at that place. They even got a lot on which to build, but for some reason they did not build. The Presbyterians built Alexander Memorial and all of the people pf that community worship there.

1895

W. W. Arbogast and John R. Warwick were appointed to collect money to pay the old debt on the Greenbank church.

There are eleven appointments on the circuit, and good interest taken in the church work. There are ten S. S. In July we held a meeting at Drift Wood(Stony Bottom) which resulted in the conversion of 13 and in the refreshment of the membership. Frank Turner, Jacob Sheets, John M. Geiger, Paulena Sheets, David Sheets, Birdie Wilfong, Mary Geiger, A. M. Sheets and Rosanna Townsand have joined the church.

Some money has been raised to repair the church at Travelers Repose and arrangements are being made to repair Mt. Vernon. $25.63 has been collected to buy furniture for the parsonage. Submitted, J. T. Maxwell, P. C.

(Records for 1896 to 1900 not available)

OFFICIAL ROLL FOR 1900

Rev. John W. McNeil, pastor in charge. Exhorters, C. C. Burner and Henry S. Kessler.

Dunmore;

Ernest N. Moore, Supt. and Class Leader, Stewards, Harry M. Moore and Ernest N. Moore, Trustees, J. F. Patterson, Rice Moore, Jacob Taylor, Wm. H. Cackley, H. M. Moore, J. A. Noel and E. N. Moore.

Wesley Chapel: formerly called Glade Hill

Asbury Sheets, Supt and Class Leader, Stewards, S. W. Hoover and Schuyler Fitzgerald. Trustees, James F. Patterson, W.W. Galford, W. B. Hudson, Asbury Sheets, and H. S. Taylor.

Greenbank:

William H. Hull, Supt. and Class Leader. Stewards, W. J. Yeager, and Martin Sutton. Trustees, J. P. Wooddell, J. C. Arbogast, Henry Sheets, C. O. Arbogast, J. R. Warwick, W. H. Hull and J. H. Curry.

Driftwood: Stephen Barnett, Steward.

Travelers Repose:

C. C. Burner, Supt. and Class Leader. Stewards, Urbanus Burner, and C. C. Burner. Trustees, Peater D. Yeager, A. M. V. Arbogast, Josiah O. Beard and Lee Burner.

Hoover S. House: Amos Gillispie, Supt, Class Leader, Steward.

McLaughlin Church:

Charles Curry, Supt. and Class Leader. C. P. Collins, Steward. Trustees, Stephen H. Barnett, C. P. Collins, G. D. McLaughlin, Jno. M. Wilfong and J. L. McLaughlin.

Wanless:

Rev. Henry S. Kessler, Supt. and Class Leader. Steward, Nash Oliver.

Dear Brethern,

We have not been on the work long enough to give a full report on the conditions of the church. I fear building the railroad will not help our people spiritually, for they have open saloons along the road and we fear they do not regard the Sabbath in their sales, so these things have a tendancy to lower the morals and spiritual life of the people. Submitted,

John W. McNeil, P. C.

As I have been here nearly one year it would be supposed that I ought to know the spiritual condition of my people, but I am frank to confess that I do not. I have been impressed with the fact that a great deal of worldiness exists among some of our members. I believe the modern dance has been a great curse to the spiritual life. Then we have had the saloons to contend with and God alone knows the curse these have been to the churches. And then many of our men work in the lumber camps and are away from hone and religious influence for 6 or 8 months and we believe they must have unwavering faith or they would come back with more money and less religion than when they left. Building the railroad has not helped our people spiritually.

A great deal of work and trading has been done on the Sabbath to the detriment of growth in grace of those who have engaged in

the Sunday traffic. Notwithstanding these adverse influences we believe we have a number of members who love their Lord and the church and are growing in Grace.

John W. McNeil, P. C.

1901

The S. S. at Driftwood was not organixed this year. Literature has been ordered for a school at Durbin but little can be done until a house in which to hold it is secured.

There is no systematic giving on the work for Missions. We believe we should lay aside a certain amount for this great cause of our Master who said "Go ye into all the world and preach the Gospel to every creature." We are using cards to raise our benovlent collection.

We believe the church is pass ng through a great crisis on the bounds of this work.

I have held revivals at several appointments and have done a great deal of pastorial work but have not had any extensive revivals so far, but I trust good has been accomplished.

John McNeil, P. C.

1902

We held a weeks meeting at Cass, good congregations and good attention to the preaching. We ought to establish an appointment there. We held protracted meetings at all of the appointments except Greenbank, have not been able to have one there because of the rough weather. February.

Financial report for Ministerial Support

Greenbank assessed $127.65---Paid $137. 35

Dunmore " 124.88--- " 124.86

Wesley Chapel	assessed	$83.25	Paid	$84.48
Travelers Repose	"	80.47	"	81.80
Hoover S. H.	"	31.08	"	21.45
Wanless	"	46.62	"	36.42
McLaughlin	"	33.30	"	40.86
Driftwood	"	27.75	"	27.78
		555.00		555.00

Pastor $500. Presiding Elder $55.

In 1903 a class had been organized at Cass and the whole circuit was assessed $607.51. Cass being assessed $16.70 which would indicate a very small class. $607.00 was paid.

There is one Junior Epworth League recently organized at Dunmore with 20 members and with a hopeful outlook for good. We have a Sunday school this year at Durbin for the first time. The S. S. at Stony Bottom is a union school, and they use Cooks literature instead of ours.

John McNeel. P. C.

1904

We have a Senior Epworth League recently organized at Travelers Repose with 19 members.

Sunday School all closed for the winter.

We have married 30 couples during the four years, Baptised 160 infants and 33 adults. Received 151 persons into the church by vows and certificate.

The circuit has raiesd for all purposes during the four years $4000.

We have spent four very pleasant years on this work and we pray Gods richest blessings on all of the people.

Humbly Submitted,

John W. McNeil,

Resolution of thanks--

That we the members of the M. E. Church, South of the Greenbank circuit having received of Hon. John T. McGraw of Grafton a lot for the building of a church at Durbin, desire in this Quarterly Conference to express our thanks for the kindness he has shown.

As the donor has thus contributed to the cause of the Lord we pray that he may be the recipient of His blessings and a partner of the benefits of the church to which he has contributed.

K. D. Swecker, Dunmore. W. Va.

March 5, 1904

Resolutions of Thanks--

Insomuch as the time is so near at hand when the work of our beloved preacher Brother McNeil must close with us and he go elsewhere-

Resolved- That whil we steadfastly believe in the system of our church yet it is with regret that we part with Brother McNeil. His stay with us has been for our good. He has been with us in all of our weaknesses and sharing with us all of our sorrows, ever helpful, a faithful preacher and pastor.

We commend Bro. McNeil to the God of all grace, and he will carry with him our love and prayers.

E. N. Moore
H. L. Taylor all of Dunmore
H. M. Moore
K. D. Swecker

$785.26 was paid on the circuit. $600. paid to the pastor.